# Women-Led Refugee Organizations (W-RLOs) in Uganda

Challenges and Opportunities

May 8, 2025

# Overview

- The research evaluates the landscape of refugee women-led organisations (W-RLOs), highlighting their contributions, needs, the structural and systemic barriers that limit their participation, and the structures required to improve it.
- The research was conducted in Uganda, across four refugee settlements and in Kampala to account for urban refugees.

W-RLOs: 42

Women-led groups: 23

RWCs: 3

Government body representatives: 6

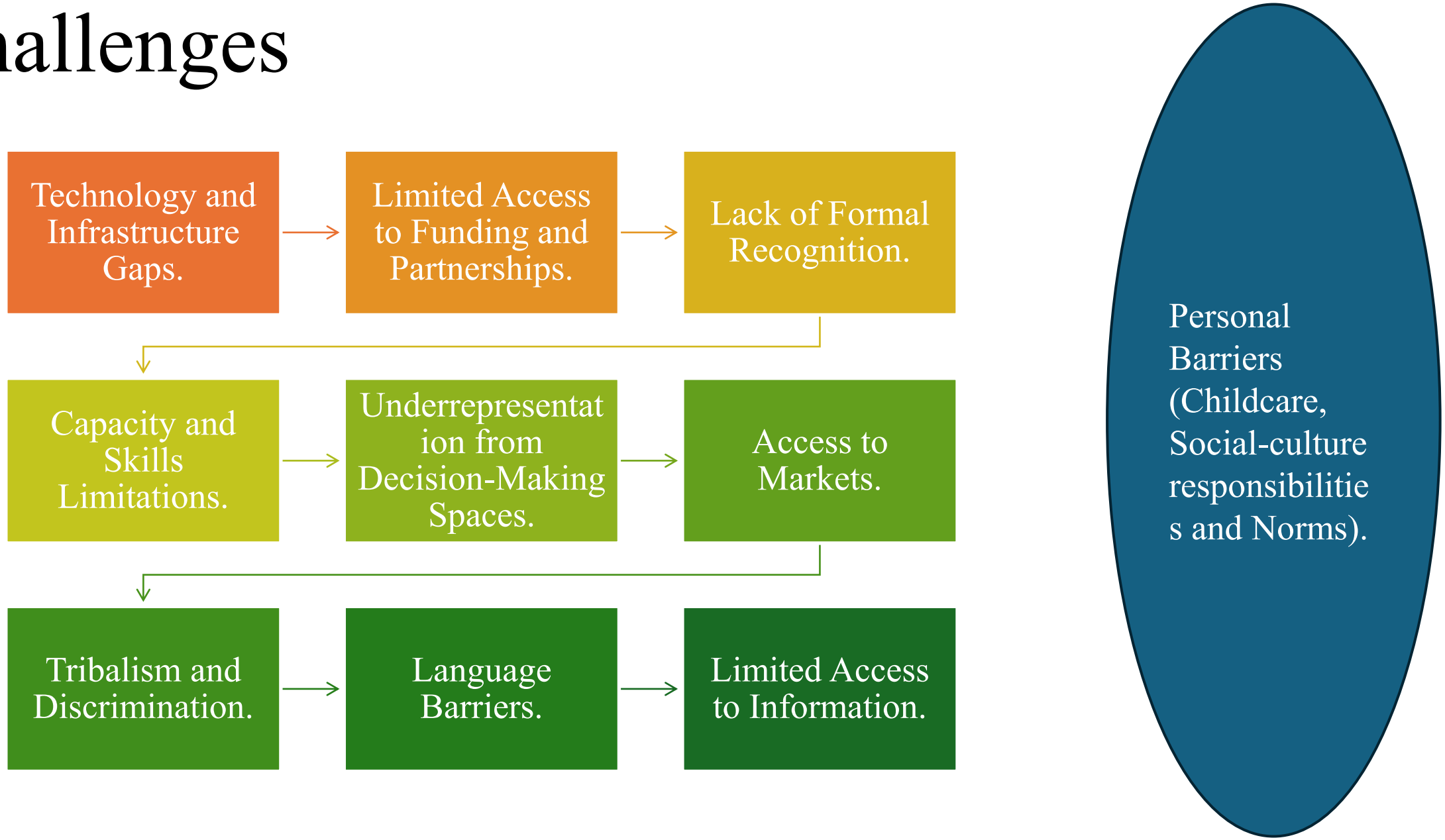
INGOs: 12

RLO: 15

# The Role of W-RLO

- Leadership at grassroots level
- Creating inclusive programs
- Designing inclusive programs
- Championing women’s and girls’ rights
- Fostering entrepreneurship and livelihoods
- Building community resilience
- Advocating for policy change

# Challenges


Technology and Infrastructure Gaps.
Limited Access to Funding and Partnerships.
Lack of Formal Recognition.
Capacity and Skills Limitations.
Underrepresentation from Decision-Making Spaces.
Access to Markets.
Tribalism and Discrimination.
Language Barriers.
Limited Access to Information.
Personal Barriers (Childcare, Social-culture responsibilities and Norms).

# Recommendations To Partners

**Identify women-led RLO networks** for effective mobilization and coordination.

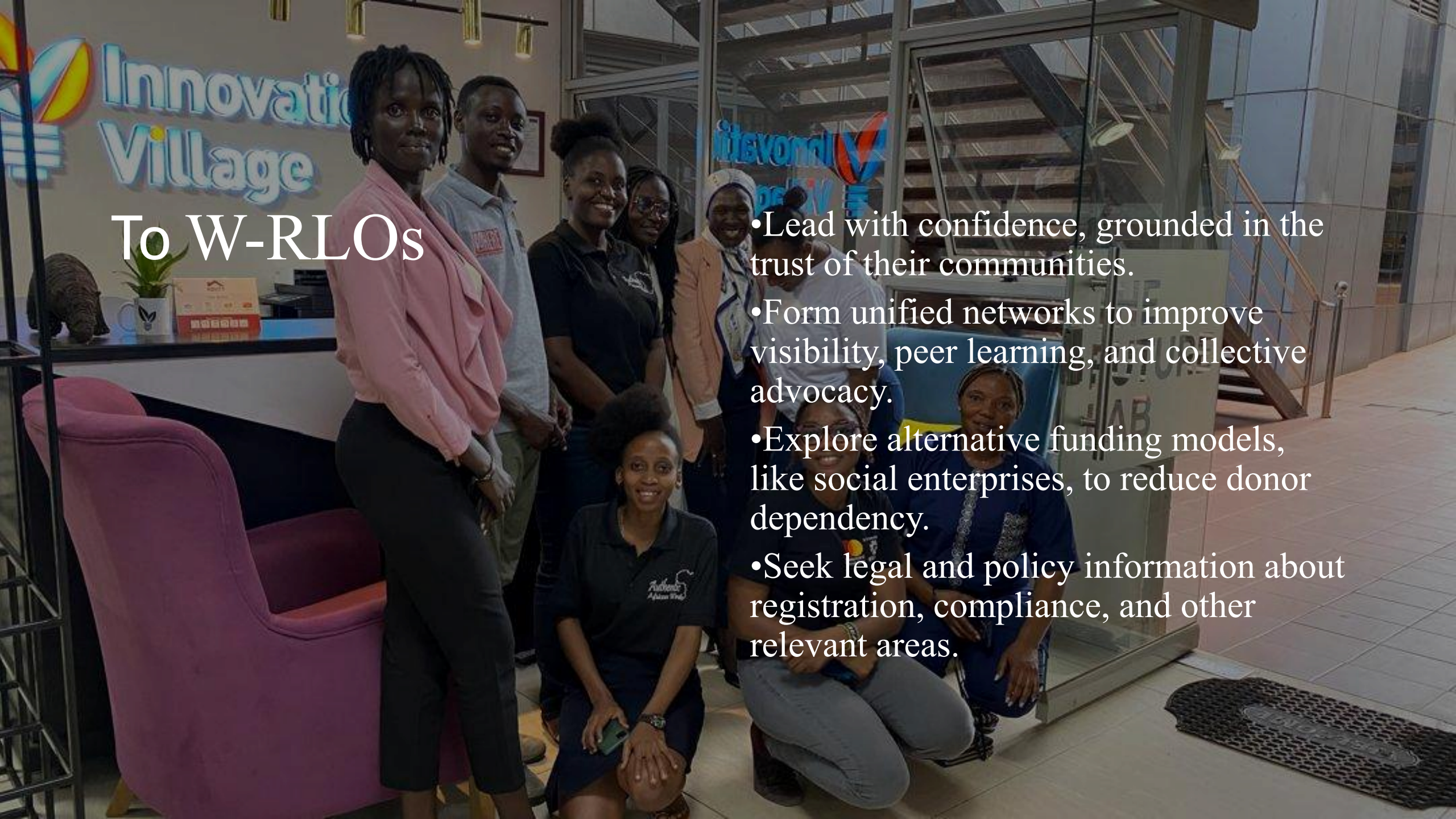
**Strengthen WLRO capacity** by embedding experts within RLOs to support key areas such as finance, internal controls, and organizational management.

**Provide multi-year funding** (at least two years) with a focus on organizational capacity building.

**Highlight and amplify their work** by showcasing implemented activities and impact.

**Channel sub-grants through RLOs** to enhance ownership and leadership.

**Invest in market systems** that prioritize and create opportunities for refugee women.




# To W-RLOs

- Lead with confidence, grounded in the trust of their communities.
- Form unified networks to improve visibility, peer learning, and collective advocacy.
- Explore alternative funding models, like social enterprises, to reduce donor dependency.
- Seek legal and policy information about registration, compliance, and other relevant areas.

# How We Are Responding

## Building a Network of W-RLOs

We a building a network/a working group of W-RLOs

## Celebrating W-RLO

Creating space for W-RLOs to network, collaborate, expand eg: The Refugee Women Leaders Convening 2025

## Capacity sharing

Polishing W-RLO internal controls

Enhancing Visibility

## Funding Change

Providing Microgrants to W-RLOs to strengthen their work

## Influencing Change

Raising awareness and supporting stakeholders to be more inclusive of W-RLOs

Golden Tulip

# Curated Products Made by Refugee Women

fuse
Women Initiative

Former

Authentic
African Works

# Reach Us On

- The Research
- Website
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- Instagram
- Women Convening Video